Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for selecting a recognizer from a number of recognizers, the method comprising:

a) receiving an input stream;

b) deriving selection information, wherein the selection information includes performance-related information;

c) using the selection information to select results from at least one enabled recognizer, wherein a recognizer is enabled based upon an expected future performance of the recognizer; and

d) returning the results to ~~the~~ an application.

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2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection information is updated and causes a recognizer to be selected that is different than the recognizer used in a previous interaction.

3. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for selecting a recognizer from a number of recognizers, the method comprising:

a) receiving an input stream;

b) deriving selection information, wherein the selection information includes performance-related information;

~~wherein the method further comprises~~

c) deriving enabling information, and using the enabling information to enable at least one selected recognizer to process the input stream;

d) using the selection information to select results from at least one enabled recognizer; and

e) returning the results to an application.

4. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 3,~~ A method for selecting a recognizer from a number of recognizers, the method comprising:

a) receiving an input stream;

b) deriving selection information, wherein the selection information includes performance-related information;

c) deriving enabling information, and using the enabling information to enable at least one selected recognizer to process the input stream;

d) using the selection information to select results from at least one enabled recognizer,

wherein the enabling information is used to enable a recognizer based upon its expected future performance; and

e) returning the results to an application.

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5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the enabling information comprises at least one type of information from the group ~~comprises~~ comprised of: channel characteristics, device characteristics, user information, contextual information, dialog state, recognizer costs and performance history.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the performance-related information comprises at least one type of information from the group comprised of: channel characteristics, device characteristics, user information, contextual information, dialog state, individual result confidence values, recognizer costs and performance history.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the selection information further comprises analyzing the input stream for channel characteristics.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the selection information further comprises analyzing the input stream for device characteristics.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the selection information further comprises receiving contextual information associated with the input stream.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, the method further comprising receiving recognizer information from the enabled recognizers to be used in the selection information.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving feedback and including the feedback in the selection information.

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12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the feedback is received from one of the group comprised of: off-line analysis, user feedback, and feedback from the recognizer.

13. (currently amended) An article containing machine-readable code that, when executed, causes the machine to:

a) receive an input stream;

b) derive the selection information, wherein the selection information includes performance-related information; and

c) use the selection information to select a recognizer from a number of recognizers, wherein the recognizer is selected based upon an expected future performance of the recognizer.

14. (original) The article of claim 13, the code causing the machine to derive selection information includes code, that when executed, causes the machine to analyze the input stream for channel characteristics.

15. (original) The article of claim 13, the code causing the machine to derive selection information includes code, that when executed, causes the machine to receive contextual information associated with the input stream.

16. (original) The article of claim 13, the code causing the machine to derive selection information includes code, that when executed, causes the machine to receive recognizer information from the recognizer to be used in the selection information.

17. (original) The article of claim 13, the code including code, that when executed, causes the machine to receive feedback and include the feedback in the selection information.

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18. (currently amended) A speech recognition system, comprising:

a) a port operable to receive an input stream;

b) at least two speech recognizers operable to perform speech recognition tasks on the input stream resulting in a converted stream;

c) a predictor operable to receive selection information, wherein the selection information includes performance-related information based upon an expected future performance of the recognizer, and to select a recognizer.; and

d) an output switch operable to select a converted stream.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the predictor is also operable to receive contextual information.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the recognizers are also operable to provide individual-result confidence levels to the predictor.

21. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the predictor is operable to select a recognizer based upon the converted stream.

22. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the predictor is operable to select a recognizer prior to the recognizer receiving the input stream.

23. (currently amended) A method for selecting a recognizer from a number of recognizers, the method comprising:

a) receiving an input stream;

b) deriving enabling information, wherein the enabling information includes performance-related information;

c) using the enabling information to select at least one ~~an~~ enabled recognizer; and

d) returning results from one of the at least one ~~the~~ enabled recognizer to ~~the~~ an application.

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24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the performance-related information comprises at least one type of information from the group comprised of: channel characteristics, device characteristics, user information, contextual information, dialog state, recognizer costs and performance history.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises receiving feedback and including the feedback in the selection information.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the feedback is received from one of the group comprised of: off-line analysis, user feedback, and feedback from the recognizers.

27. (currently amended) An article containing machine-readable code that, when executed, causes the machine to

a) receive an input stream;

b) derive enabling information, wherein the enabling information includes performance-related information;

c) use the enabling information to select an enabled recognizer; and

d) return results from the enabled recognizer to ~~the~~ an application.

28. (original) The article of claim 27, the code causing the machine to derive enabling information includes code, that when executed, causes the machine to analyze the input stream for channel characteristics.

29. (original) The article of claim 27, the code causing the machine to derive enabling information includes code, that when executed, causes the machine to receive contextual information associated with the input stream.

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30. (original) The article of claim 27, the code including code, that when executed, causes the machine to receive feedback and include the feedback in the selection information.

31. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein the enabling information comprises recognizer costs.

32. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein contextual information comprises information from at least one item of information derived from the set of information comprising information related to the environment around the input stream, characteristics of a user generating the input stream, information derived from a call using network services, gender, age, ethnicity, information relating to the user's first (native) language, personal information about the user, channel characteristics and device characteristics.

33. (new) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the contextual information is obtained dynamically.

34. (new) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the contextual information is predetermined.

35. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein contextual information comprises information from at least one item of information derived from the set of information comprising information related to the environment around the input stream, characteristics of a user generating the input stream, information derived from a call using network services, gender, age, ethnicity, information relating to the user's first (native) language, personal information about the user, channel characteristics and device characteristics.

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36. (new) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the contextual information is obtained dynamically.

37. (new) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the contextual information is predetermined.

38. (new) The system of claim 20, wherein the predictor determines, for each recognizer in the system and for each situation, a recognizer-based confidence value.

39. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein selection information uses a recognizer-based confidence value for each enabled recognizer.

40. (new) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the method further comprises receiving feedback and including the feedback in the selection information.

41. (new) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the derived enabling information including performance-related information comprises performance tracking using enabling information to select at least one recognizer.

42. (new) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the selecting results from one of the at least on enabled recognizers is based on selection information comprising performance predictors.

43. (new) The method as recited in claim 42, wherein the performance predictors are selected from a group or predictors comprising channel characteristics, device characteristics, user information, contextual information, dialog state, and individual-results confidence.

44. (new) The article as recited in claim 27, wherein the machine-readable code further causes the machine to receive feedback and includes the feedback in selection information.

45. (new) The article as recited in claim 27, wherein the derived enabling information includes performance-related information comprising performance tracking, wherein the performance-tracking uses enabling information to select at least one recognizer.

46. (new) The article as recited in claim 27, wherein selecting results from one of the at least on enabled recognizers is based on selection information comprising performance predictors.